



ASSEMBLYMEMBER
NICOLE PARRA
Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

May 31, 2007

Hello Friends,

The next few weeks in Sacramento will be the busiest weeks of the year. There are a number of key legislative dates that I would like you to be aware of. These dates will shape weeks ahead, and will give you a snapshot of the work facing us under the Dome

www.assembly.ca.gov/acs/acsframeset11text.asp.

Today, the Assembly Appropriations Committee will hold its last meeting for a few weeks. The Appropriations Committee will convene to take up 24 bills as part of its regular hearing and then the **593 bills pending on their suspense file...** for a combined total of **617 bills** to be taken up by the committee today. Obviously, only a subset of this volume will actually reach the floor, but even if half of those bills makes it to the floor that would be more than 300 bills, or an average of 60 bills to be worked each day next week during the final week for Assembly bills to clear the Assembly.

I currently have 9 bills before the **Appropriations Committee**. Included among the bills are public safety legislation targeting sex offenders (**AB 440 and AB 442**), methamphetamine dealers (**AB 441**), and drunk drivers (**AB 808**). I also have a couple of bills to provide a regional solution to our key water issues (**AB 877 and AB 1250**). If these bills pass out of Appropriations, the Assembly has one final week – June 4 through June 8 – to vote “yes” and send them to the Senate.

The House of Origin Deadline is June 8. This means that by midnight on June 8, Assembly members must pass any bill authored in the Assembly if it is to become law at the end of the year. To facilitate this, all committee meetings will be cancelled from June 4 until after June 8 and the Assembly will begin to hold daily sessions to debate and consider all of the bills.

On June 8, however, the work is not yet done. Bills passed in the Assembly will be sent to the Senate while bills passed in the Senate come to the Assembly. **Committee meetings will resume on June 11** to hear bills authored in the Senate. Those bills must be passed out of committee **before July 13 in order to reach the Governor this year.**

In addition to the legislative deadlines, there are also some important dates to consider as we look forward to the annual budget debate. As you know from the special edition of the *Parra Notes* we sent a couple of weeks ago, the Governor has released his **May Revise Budget**. After releasing an

initial 2007-2008 budget proposal in January, the Governor has spent the past several months receiving feedback from constituents, interest groups, and elected officials. Combining that input with a revised economic picture based on revenue and expenses, the Governor then releases a “revised” budget in May.

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/newsletters/eNewsletter080.pdf>

June 15 is the constitutional deadline for the Legislature to pass a budget. That means the Legislature has until midnight on June 15 to pass a budget for the people of California by a two-thirds vote. Unfortunately, that date has not been met in past legislative sessions. However, I remain hopeful that both Democrat and Republican leadership will come to agreement on the most significant details to get a State budget passed in early July.

As always, I will continue to fight for the issues that matter most to the people of the 30th Assembly District in the budget debate. **Accessible health care, quality education, a thriving agricultural industry, and reliable sources of clean drinking water will top my agenda.**

This is a lot of information. But I want you to understand the process, be aware of key dates and deadlines, and know that I am working hard for you in Sacramento.

What's Happening in Sacramento

A **federal program** administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, the “**Weed and Seed**” strategy offers funds and resources to local law enforcement officials. Weed and Seed is comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization overseen by the Community Capacity Development Office. The goal is to prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. To learn more, and apply for funding, visit: www.ojp.gov/ccdo/ws

The **Secretary of State's office** is entering into an interagency agreement with the University of California to conduct a top-to-bottom review of our State's **voting systems**. The review is the first of its kind in the nation, and is running from mid-May to late July. Details on the project plan, the review team, and other information can be found at www.sos.ca.gov/elections/elections_vsr.htm

Redistricting is a hot topic in Sacramento these days. Recently, a pair of competing State Senate ballot measures (**SCA 9 and SCA 10**) on redistricting passed out of a key committee. In addition, the Assembly Speaker has introduced a redistricting bill of his own (**ACA 1**), which is scheduled for a vote in June. As these measures compete against one another in the legislature, redistricting may eventually be decided by the people of California in an initiative.

My Legislative Highlights

The **Kern County Board of Supervisors** unanimously asked me to carry **AB 1510**, legislation

authorizing the County of Kern to utilize the design-build project delivery method as allowed under current law. The bill is also supported by the State Building and Construction Trades Council. I am pleased to report that **AB 1510 has passed the Assembly** and now heads to the Senate.

The Williamson Act remains a very important piece of legislation to me and I am committed to doing everything I can to protect its budget allocation. In years past, I fought hard to protect funding for the Williamson Act and I was pleased with its restoration. Rest assured, I will continue to monitor the status of this vital program as budget negotiations continue. **I have authored letters to the Assembly Budget Subcommittee requesting restoration of funding for the Williamson Act Subventions to counties.**

I delivered a speech to the **Voter Registration & Education Project** Awards Dinner. The theme of the evening was "Fulfilling the Promise of Democracy". My comments focused on the need for taking personal responsibility to vote and innovative ways to reach out to potential new voters, such as those attending classes at adult and occupational schools.

In separate talks to the American Electronics Association (AeA) and the California Association of Health Underwriters, I had the opportunity to discuss a number of important issues facing the State Legislature in the months ahead, including the **May Budget Revise, re-districting, and term limits.**

Constituents Visit Sacramento

Several municipal leaders came to visit as part of a legislative action day. Representatives from **Kings County, Delano, Huron, Lemoore, McFarland, Mendota, and Selma** stopped by to discuss a number of local and state items. In addition to the May budget revisions recently released, we shared thoughts on a number of pressing topics, including public safety, education, water, and transportation.

I had the opportunity to spend time with **Sheriff Chris Jordon from Kings County** to discuss important public safety legislation that is pending in the State Capitol including my bills regarding **methamphetamine (AB 441), child pornography penalties (AB 440), and copper theft (AB 1372)**. During the meeting, we discussed crime issues affecting Kings County including the growing gang problems in Avenal and the Sheriff's crime prevention plans. I am particularly excited about the Sheriff's mentoring programs in the area.

The **Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce** came up to Sacramento to discuss a number of issues. At the top of the list was support for High Speed Rail and keeping the Williamson Act funded. I look forward to attending a meeting with the Chamber in June back in the District.

Officials from **California State University Bakersfield, including President Mitchell**, and from **California State University Fresno** came to discuss legislation and critical funding for our university system. I am pleased to co-author AB 302, which would specify that the Cal Grant B awards include the access award amount and an additional amount to pay tuition and fees.

Dentists from Kings, Fresno, and Kern County came up as part of the California Dental Association's legislative day. I encouraged them to continue their participation in First 5's dental services program for children in need. I thank our local dentists for playing a critical role in the healthy development of our children.

Approximately 25 students from **Maple School in Shafter** came to celebrate their **8th grade** graduation with a trip to the Capitol. We were able to help set up a tour of the Capitol and take a photo with myself and **Assembly Minority Leader Mike Villines** on the Assembly floor.

In the District

We welcome **Sophia Flores of Corcoran** to our summer internship program. Sophia is a first year undergraduate student at the University of California-Berkeley. She is working toward a bachelor's degree in political science, law, and the interdisciplinary studies field.

Let me say ***Congratulations*** to all of the **graduates of the Class of 2007!** I commend all of the 30th Assembly District high school graduates and wish everyone a safe and happy celebration.

Meeting Requests

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Rozanne Jones** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Rozanne.Jones@asm.ca.gov

Interns Wanted

I am accepting applications for the internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield** and **Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the **30th Assembly District**, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the **Central Valley**. Applications can be found by going to: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Richard Valle** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at: Richard.Valle@asm.ca.gov

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Nerissa Robinson** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at: Nerissa.Robinson@asm.ca.gov

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at: Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov

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